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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : William S. Bess, Neema Kulkarni, Suhas H. Ambike and Michael P. Ramsay

Serial No.: 09/535,005

Art Unit : 1623

Filed : March 23, 2000

Examiner : E. Peselev

Title : FAST DISSOLVING ORALLY CONSUMABLE FILMS CONTAINING AN ION EXCHANGE RESIN AS A TASTE MASKING AGENT

Date : March 7, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R 1.111

Sir,

This is a response to the non-final office action dated September 7, 2002 and is being submitted with a Petition for a Three Month Extension of Time and the appropriate fee extending the date for a response to March 7, 2002. Should an additional fee be due please charge Deposit Account Number 23-0455. In view of the following remarks, Applicants submit that the Application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

REMARKS

Claims 1-22, 25-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over 4,788,055 issued to Fischer ("Fischer") in view of 5,411,945 issued to Ozaki ("Ozaki").
Applicants traverse this rejection.

By way of review, the present invention is directed to a fast dissolving orally consumable film containing at least one water soluble polymer, at least one pharmaceutically active agent and